



SOUTHEAST NEWS

October - November 2008

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250

423-1611

Dear Southeast Families,

Welcome to a new year at Southeast. We are looking forward to working with you this year. We are off to a good start with an exciting Opening Day Ceremony. Approximately 80% of our families attended our Open House. It was wonderful to see so many of you at our annual event.

It is a pleasure to work with your *Dynamic, Diverse and Distinguished* children. Please let us know how we are doing meeting the needs of your youngsters by sharing your thoughts with us through a note, phone call or parent-teacher conference. We welcome and appreciate your input.

I hope to see you at our School Carnival, which has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 4th.

Sincerely,
Norma Fisher-Doiron

School Picture Day **Friday, October 10, 2008**

Individual student and group pictures will be taken on Friday, Oct. 10th. Envelopes were sent home with your child on Sept. 26th. Each child must have his/her own envelope if you will be ordering a package. Every child will have their picture taken regardless of whether or not a package is ordered. We use these pictures for student identification in our data base.








Dropping Children Off **at School**



Parents bringing children to school should park in the designated areas of the parking lot on the side of the building and walk with their children into the building at the Arts Wing entrance. For safety reasons, we cannot allow children to be dropped off in the parking lot.

If you arrive after 8:55, please report to the office to sign your child in. If this is not done, the child may be marked absent.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 29.....	Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown	
Sept. 30.....	Rosh Hashanah	
Oct. 4.....	Fall Carnival 10:00 - 3:00	
Oct. 6.....	6:00 Parents' Hour 7:00 PTO Meeting	
Oct. 8.....	Yom Kippur starts at sundown	
Oct. 9.....	1st Grade field trip to Buell's Orchard	
Oct. 10.....	School Picture Day	
Oct. 13.....	NO SCHOOL - Columbus Day	
Oct. 13-17.....	National Custodian Appreciation Week	
Oct. 14.....	NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day	
Oct. 14-20.....	Sukkot	
Oct. 16.....	7:30 Board of Education Meeting	
Oct. 17.....	2nd Grade field trip to Sturbridge Village	
Oct. 18.....	Relay for Life - ESCU Ball Field	
Oct. 23.....	8:15 Tools for Schools Meeting	
Oct. 24.....	3rd Grade field trip to Buchanan Library	
Oct. 30.....	7:30 Board of Education Meeting	
Oct. 31.....	Halloween 4th Grade field trip to Pequot Museum	
Nov. 2.....	Daylight Savings Time ends	
Nov. 3.....	6:00 Parents' Hour 7:00 PTO Meeting	
Nov. 10.....	NO SCHOOL Professional Development Day	
Nov. 11.....	NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day	
Nov. 13.....	7:30 Board of Education Meeting	
Nov. 21.....	Progress Reports go home	
Nov. 24.....	12:45 EARLY CLOSING Parent-Teacher Conferences	
Nov. 25.....	12:45 EARLY CLOSING Parent-Teacher Conferences	
Nov. 26.....	10:45 Turkey Trot 12:45 EARLY CLOSING	
Nov. 27.....	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Day	
Nov. 28.....	NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Recess	

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793

Please visit our website www.mansfieldct.org/schools/southeast

Bridges in Mathematics

"Bridges in Mathematics" was presented to the Mansfield Board of Education and received approval on May 22, 2008. Bridges is a comprehensive K-5 mathematics program designed to meet the standards established by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Connecticut Curriculum Framework. It is based on years of research about how children learn.

Bridges facilitates the development of children's mathematical thinking and reasoning abilities by providing age-appropriate problems and investigations in the areas of number, algebraic thinking, geometry, probability, data analysis and measurement. Students are encouraged to explore, develop, test, discuss and apply ideas. A Bridges classroom features a combination of whole-group, small-group and independent activities. Lessons incorporate increasingly complex visual models - seeing, touching, working with manipulatives and sketching ideas - which create pictures in the mind's eye that helps learners invent, understand, and remember mathematical ideas. By encouraging students to explore, test and justify their reasoning, the curriculum facilitates the development of mathematical thinking.

Bridges Number Corner



Number Corner is an interactive bulletin board that revolves around the classroom calendar, providing skills practice as well as continual encounters with broader mathematical concepts. In a Number Corner classroom, daily workouts involve whole-group games and activities focused on a specific skill or concept. New pieces are added to the display each day -- patterns unfold, school days are tallied and coins are collected -- providing the basis for discussions, problem solving, and short written assignments including independent practice. Math becomes less abstract as students are engaged by concrete and accessible models related to computational strategies, place value, money, time, measuring, and algebraic thinking. As students move through the grades, the mathematical topics include mental math, multi-digit computation, fractions and decimals, identifying shapes, angles and symmetries, predicting and confirming probabilities, and building a repertoire of problem-solving strategies. This is an exciting component of the program that students are really enjoying while learning important mathematics. Ask your child about their calendar pattern!

Lost and Found

Putting your child's name inside his/her lunch box, backpack, jacket and other belongings make it easy for them to be returned to your child when found. We have a *Lost and Found* box full of found items with no names on them.



Bullying: The Bystander's Role

Q: My child came home from school upset because kids were picking on a classmate and wouldn't let her play with them. What advice should I give my daughter?



A: Tell your youngster that her classmate was being bullied and that she has the power to help stop it!

There are several things she can do. She could start by standing up to the bully and saying something like, "That's not nice." Then, she might ask the child who is being bullied to join her in a game or school project.

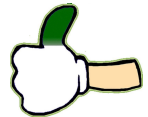
Also, remind your youngster to report bullying to a teacher or another adult when she sees it. Let her know this is not tattling, but a way to help someone who is being hurt. You can explain: "Asking an adult to help a child who is being bullied is like asking the nurse to help a child with a scraped knee."

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From the Green Thumbs Club

The Green Thumbs Club is collecting the following items for recycling:

- old cell phones,
- dry cell batteries,
- old DVDs, CDs, and videotapes,
- worn out athletic footwear (no metal cleats),
- used toner and inkjet cartridges from your home or office, wallpaper remnants and old calendars.



A collection center for all of these items is located in the hallway by Mrs. Irvine's room (#22).

Stop Junk Mail



Are you tired of getting so much junk mail? Here are some tips to reduce the amount of junk mail you receive:

Send a letter to:
Mail Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association
PO Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

State: "Please remove my name from your mailing list. Do not lend, sell or trade my name to any other organization." List all the various ways that your name and address typically appear on mailing labels.

- One way to stop receiving unwanted catalogs is to log on to <http://catalogchoice.org>. This is a quick, user-friendly, convenient site for removing your name from catalog mailing lists.
- If you don't want to receive Valpak coupons, you can remove your name and address from their mailing list by going to coxtarget.com and click on "Contact us." Then follow the link and look to the bottom of the page for another link to "Mailing Address Removal Request Form." You can always visit valuepak.com and print out only the coupons you need.

Stories for Southeast

The Gift That Keeps on Giving



We would like to thank the individuals below for their purchase of the following books for our school library:

- My Dog May be a Genius ... For Mrs. Beth Latino... Congratulations on being named Mansfield's Teacher of the Year for 2008 ... From, The Southeast PTO
- Extreme Dinosaurs! Q&A ... For Mrs. Beth Latino... Congratulations on being named Mansfield's Teacher of the Year for 2008 ... From, The Southeast PTO
- Oggie Cooder #1 ... For Mrs. Beth Latino... Congratulations on being named Mansfield's Teacher of the Year for 2008 ... From, Norma Fisher-Doiron
- The Magic Raincoat ... For Katherine Facchinetti ... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement... From Norma Fisher-Doiron
- Lily and the Mixed-up Letters ... For Katherine Facchinetti ... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement... From The Southeast PTO
- The Tale of La Llorona: A Mexican Folktale ... For Katherine Facchinetti ... Thank you for your years of service and dedication to Southeast School. Congratulations on your retirement... From The Southeast PTO
- Nascar ABC's ... To our invaluable custodial staff - Thank you for everything you do on a daily basis to make our school sparkle!... Fondly, The Southeast Staff

If you are interested in purchasing a book for our library, please contact Linda Sydnie at 423-1282

Calling All Gardeners

Help! Our gardens have become more than we can handle. The Southeast garden committee is looking for volunteers to help us weed and maintain our gardens.

Any interested volunteers should contact
Sue Kamienski or Cheryl Hathway
at 423-1611.



Snack

Please don't forget to pack a snack for your child. Children are encouraged to bring healthful snacks such as fruit, vegetables, juice, etc. in non-breakable containers. Snack time is part of most classroom routines.



RELAY FOR LIFE

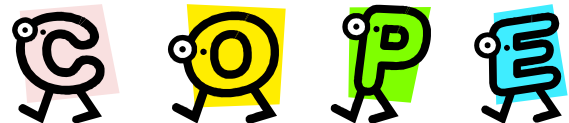
OCTOBER 18 - 19
EASTERN CT
BALL FIELD

Did you know that Southeast School has a team that raises money to fight cancer?

If you would like to be a part of this exciting event:

- Sign up to walk some laps supporting the team.
- Ask your family to walk with you! It's really a festive event with entertainment, snacks, raffles, etc. It's also great exercise. If you get some people to sponsor you to walk, even better!!
- Donate money to support the team.
- Buy a luminary to honor someone you know who has battled cancer. They are lit the night of the walk and are truly moving.
- Find someone who would like to donate money to our team.
- Invite a survivor to participate in the special events.

For more information contact Monique Brown
423-1611 Ext 107 jmckbrown@charter.net



For Children Learning to ~COPE~ with Loss and Divorce

Children experience losses in many ways, whether it be moving to a new home, the arrival of a new baby, the death of a family member or the separation/divorce of parents. As a result of these situations, children may often have varied and intense feelings, such as sadness, anger, guilt, confusion and a sense of loss at seeing the family unit change. These changes and stress may often interfere with normal classroom behavior and with their ability to learn. A supportive group network may help them cope with their level of stress.

Since 1985, the Mansfield Youth Service Bureau has been offering a series of weekly group meetings for children who have sustained losses. This program, called COPE, is aimed at building the strengths necessary to foster the intellectual and emotional growth of our children. During the last school year, close to 100 children in all three elementary schools participated in COPE.

Because COPE has been so popular, the staff of the Youth Service Bureau will be offering these groups again. The groups meet one day a week at lunchtime, run 30 minutes in length and provide children the opportunity to talk about their specific situation and associated feelings. Grades K-2 and Grades 3-4 meet separately and age appropriate videos, feelings charts, activities and worksheets are utilized.

If you are interested in having your child participate in COPE, please call the school office for an application.

The first day of COPE is October 16th.

Any questions regarding COPE, please contact Kathy MacNamara, at Mansfield Youth Service Bureau, 429-3318.

Notes to Teachers



When sending notes to teachers for parent pick-up, etc. please make sure that the paper you write the note on is large enough to be found by the teacher. Tiny scraps of paper are often overlooked or get lost.

For your convenience, we've put a generic form on our website. You may find it handy to use.

SOUTHEAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Presents

Dr. Jane Bluestein

Author of
"The Win-Win Classroom"



"My Brain Doesn't Work Like That!"

Back-door Approaches to Working
with Non-Traditional Learners

Thursday, October 2, 2008

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Southeast Elementary School

This presentation is for adults only.

No children please.

Childcare is not available for this event.

RSVP to: Fisherdoironnj@mansfieldct.org
or call the school office 423-1611

Used Business Cards Needed

Mrs. Brown is looking for old business cards to recycle into word cards for her students. If you have any that you would like to donate, please send them to the office with your child.

Thank you

Reminder:

Call the school attendance line
423-2793 by 9:00 am
if your child will be absent.



Notes From the School Kitchen

Menus

At the end of each month, a menu for the upcoming month will be sent home. This menu is also available on our web site.

Lunch alternatives are Sandwich Bag Lunch, Yogurt Bag Lunch, or PBJ. Alternate lunch choices include all five food group components. All juice drinks are 100% juice.



Meal Prices

Breakfast- \$1.25

Lunch- \$2.00

Milk- 50¢

Paying for School Lunches

School lunches are paid in advance and recorded on a debit based system. If your child normally buys school lunch, it is suggested that you pre-pay at least a week in advance. Monthly lunch ticket payment coupons are available on our website.

Should lunch or lunch money be forgotten, it is possible to charge a lunch in the kitchen for that day. Repayment should be made to the kitchen on the following school day. Money for ice cream may not be borrowed.

Breakfast

Breakfast will be offered each day to students who participate in the breakfast program. Please contact our school nurse for the details on this program for low income families.

Free or Reduced Lunch

If your financial situation changes during the school year and you need assistance with the cost of your child's lunch, please contact the school nurse for details on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

For more details about the Mansfield School Lunch Program, see the town-wide Parent Handbook, page 35. You can also call the Southeast Food Service Manager, Ms. Maureen Gagne at 423-7251 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Notes from the Health Room

Vicki Daniels, RN 423-2793

Healthy Food Alternatives to Classroom Celebrations

Birthday parties and holiday celebrations at school provide a unique opportunity to help make healthful eating fun and exciting for children.

Activities to Celebrate the Child

- Instead of food, purchase a book for the classroom or school library in the birthday child's name. Ask the teacher if you can come in and read the book to the class.
- Create a "Celebrate Me" book. Ask the teacher to have classmates write stories or poems and draw pictures to describe what is special about the birthday child.



Healthy Food Ideas *

- Fresh fruit assortment, fruit and cheese kabobs, fruit salad, fruit with low-fat whipped topping.
- Vegetable trays with low-fat dip, celery and carrots with peanut butter and raisins.
- Whole-grain crackers with cheese cubes, string cheese or hummus.

* Check for food allergies before sending in snacks

Healthy Kids Learn Better

Research clearly demonstrates that good nutrition is linked to better behavior and academic performance. To provide the best possible learning environment for children, schools must also provide an environment that supports healthy behaviors.



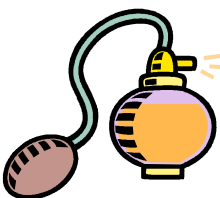
Weather Appropriate Clothing

Please encourage your children to wear safe footwear and weather appropriate clothing. We want to ensure safe opportunities in class, at recess and at physical education for Southeast children.

Flip flops can lead to serious mishaps, and insufficient outerwear causes personal discomfort for the child.

Chemical and Fragrance Sensitivity

If you feel ill when around fragrances, cleaning products, plastics and other products that have strong smells, you may have a condition called chemical sensitivity. Symptoms can range from headaches, dizziness, and breathing difficulties to almost total incapacitation in serious cases.



We have some students and staff members with this condition and ask that you please be aware of your use of perfume when you are going to be in the school building. Students should not wear perfume or cologne to school.

Thank you

Does Your Child Have Health Insurance?

The HUSKY (Healthcare for Uninsured Kids and Youth) Plan is designed to help all children who don't have health insurance. It includes services under the traditional Medicaid program (now known as Husky Part A). It also provides health services for children in higher-income families (called HUSKY Part B). There's also HUSKY Plus- a coverage option for children who have intensive physical and/or behavioral health needs. HUSKY medical assistance coverage will not be denied due to a pre-existing medical condition.

For more information call or write:

1-800-656-6684
Husky Program
P.O. Box 280747
East Hartford, CT 06128



October is Family Health Month

Healthy families also all have one thing in common: they talk. **Families need to communicate.** Many families are too busy to talk about health issues and concerns until there is a problem with a family member or there is a major illness. Communication is key to early detection and prevention for illness and injury. Communication is important for many reasons. Too many people think that the only time to discuss something is when there is a problem, so they don't work at daily conversations about general life. If conversation is part of family life, it becomes easy and while it may still be tough to talk about some things, it won't be impossible. Take time to talk to your family members and your family physician about your health and your family's health.

Could you have diabetes and not know it?

There are 23.6 million children and adults in the US with diabetes, and nearly a quarter of them (or 5.7 million people) do not know it! You can go to the following website and take a test to see if you are at risk for having or developing type 2 diabetes. www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp Diabetes is more common in African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. If you are a member of one of these ethnic groups, you need to pay special attention to this test.



WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM A VAMPIRE?

The way a movie vampire covers his face with his cape is a good way to stop the spread of germs. It's called the Vampire Cough. Next time you cough or sneeze, cough into the inside bend of your elbow. If you cough into your hands, the germs from your mouth get spread around. Think about it - what was the last thing you touched with the inside of your elbow?



PTO Updates & Events:

2008-2009 PTO Officers

President.....Kim O'Keefe
 Vice President.....Andrea Lennon
 Secretary.....Monique Brown
 Treasurer.....Lesley Sweeney

Wrapping Paper Fundraiser Extended One Week



It's not too late to get your order in for the wrapping paper fundraiser. There are so many great items in the catalog to choose from. Start your holiday shopping now! Items will be available for pickup at the school prior to Thanksgiving.

This fundraiser helps pay for enrichment programs the students will enjoy throughout the year. Please help to fund your part!

Please send in your order forms by October 3rd. Every student order will receive a free mystery gift.

Any questions, please contact Kimberly Ewalt at 716-1200 or kjewalt@hotmail.com

Thank you for supporting our school.

Due to the forecast for rain the Southeast Carnival WILL BE POSTPONED until

Saturday, October 4th
 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Join us for a day of friends and fun.

- games and prizes
- silent auction
- horse & carriage rides
- moon bounce
- cake walk
- crafts
- nail design
- face painting
- refreshments
- bake sale
- much, much, more

**Fall
Into
Fun
at the School
Carnival!**



Southeast School Hits a Homerun

On a beautiful, sunny day in June, Southeast families got to enjoy a baseball game at the CT Defenders Game Fundraiser. Ross and Michael Lennon each got to throw out the ceremonial first pitch, having sold the most tickets. They were able to sell 25 tickets to friends and family. All the students got a special treat at the end of the game by being able to run around the bases and were given an ice cream at 3rd base. The Southeast PTO was able to raise \$252, and the children got to pose with the check. We are looking forward to planning this event again in Spring 2009.

Special Thanks to the Guyette Crew for always starting the "Southeast Wave" in the stands!



THANK YOU



A big thank you to all of the Southeast families that contributed delicious baked goods for the Fireworks in the Park fundraiser. The event was a great success thanks to you!

WE NEED YOU

By "working together"...



The Southeast Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) serves the school in many capacities. If you have a child enrolled at Southeast Elementary School, you are automatically a member of the Southeast PTO. Please consider attending our meetings, which are normally held on the first Monday of every month. Agendas and minutes are sent home in your child's mail. If you decide to attend a meeting, child care is available by contacting the school office before the meeting.